

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Ad

aS21
.A8U51



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
Information

Selected Speeches and News Releases

February 16 - February 23, 1989

IN THIS ISSUE:

Remarks—

Prepared for Delivery by Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter at His Swearing-In Ceremony in the USDA Patio, February 16.

Prepared for Delivery by Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter in the Jefferson Auditorium Following His Swearing-In Ceremony, February 16.

News Releases—

USDA Proposes Changing Dairy Product Grading and Inspection Fees

Horse Protection USDA Submits Final Rule on Horse Protection Regulations

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Price for Upland Cotton

USDA Plans for Major Genome Mapping Project

USDA Proposes Fee Increases for Meat Grading and Certification Services

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Rice Prices

U.S., Jamaica Amend P.L. 480 Agreement

FGIS Proposes to Offer Soybean Oil, Protein Testing as Official Criteria

USDA to Revise Grade Standards for Flue-Cured Tobacco

Remarks

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE CLAYTON YEUTTER AT HIS SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN THE USDA PATIO, FEBRUARY 16.

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. It's a marvelous privilege, pleasure and opportunity for me to be here this morning. As I look out over this audience I see a multitude of long-time friends and I am so pleased and gratified that all of you were willing to take time out of your hectic and demanding schedules to be here and share this occasion with us. I am not going to make any profound policy pronouncements this morning. I'd like to basically concentrate in my very short time with you on some comments about people.

First of all on behalf of everyone here, Mr. President, we want to thank you for coming over to participate in this ceremony. We know it requires time out of your schedule to do so and it's a tremendous gesture on your part to participate. It's an honor not only for all of us in the Cabinet to experience this privilege, but it's an honor for the people in all the departments including USDA who have opportunity to see you up close as a part of this ceremony. Thank you for coming.

Although you have heard many great things about President Bush during the campaign and through the inaugural, however; I would like to embellish those if I may by confirming and ratifying, if I may without question, this is one of the best prepared Presidents we have had in the history of the United States, one of the most substantive Presidents we have ever had in the history of the United States, both of those attributes and characteristics are going to serve us all well in the coming years. But more importantly, George and Barbara Bush are two of the finest human beings on the face of this earth. That is why it's a distinct pleasure for all of us to be a part of this Administration.

I want to say a word about Justice O'Connor if she'll forgive me for telling this anecdote one more time. First of all it's a great privilege for me to have her swear me in again, for the second time. She did the honors 3-and-a-half years ago as I took over as the U.S. Trade Representative and very graciously consented to come here this morning to administer the oath of office again. Dick Lyng was just saying in the

waiting room that she also did the honors for him when he became Secretary, so I think you are an honorary member of this department by now Justice O'Connor. I want to share an anecdote with you which reflects the nature of this fine and distinguished lady. Back in 1972, I was involved in the Presidential campaign and was working on the agricultural campaign nationwide and I paid a visit to Phoenix, Arizona. The Arizona chairman of the presidential campaign was a leading businessman in that city, the co-chairman that year happened to be a lady named Sandra O'Connor and I met with those two folks during the day. As we were getting the campaign organized I said to the gentleman who was the campaign chairman, "where in the world did you get Sandra O'Connor she is just fantastic; and, he said, you're absolutely right, she is fantastic." This was 1972, remember. He said someday she is going to become the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court. That was a remarkably prescient comment because as you know a decade or so later she became deservedly the first woman on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Now I want to say a word about my wife Jeanne. She doesn't know that this is coming. I think everyone here of my generation would appreciate the fact that thirty years ago, when we were coming out of college ready to go to work it was still a man's world and in some respects it is still a man's world today, but that's changing very rapidly. I think it's important for all of us as we share in and enjoy all of these fine honors, being named Cabinet members and doing fascinating things around the world, a little humility is sometimes in store. I think it's important for some of us to recognize that we have spouses, but for that generation gap of thirty years ago, might be standing in front of this microphone accepting honors as appointments of members of the Cabinet just as easily and deservedly as we. And Jeanne fits that category. A word about Kim, since she's up here too. You can tell by what she had to say in the invocation that she has her head screwed on right—at least we hope so. This is parental pride coming out. I mention this for a particular reason. Kim has just finished a double masters degree program. Getting a masters in business and a masters in international relations. And although she doesn't speak Japanese as well as Ambassador Matsunga does she's working hard at it. We have to educate our children if we're going to be competitive, Mr. President, in the world in which we find ourselves going into the next century. We hope Kim is prepared.

Also, a word to Peter Myers who's also sharing the podium with us this morning, because Peter has so ably handled this ceremony, as well

as so graciously handling the transition from one Administration to another.

Then moving very rapidly out to the distinguished guests, which I don't have time to introduce them all or comment on them all, but I want to say how appreciative I am of my fellow members of the Cabinet coming over to join in the ceremony this morning. A good number of ambassadors who are here and a substantial number of Members of Congress even though they probably ought to be out in their home districts right now. I'm honored to have them here joining the ceremony. I'm not going to introduce them all, but I want to pay special attention to just three who are here. Congressman Tom Foley because as all of you know he is the distinguished Majority Leader of the House and former Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, a long time great friend and I know he postponed a trip back home for a day just to be here this morning. So Congressman Foley, it's especially nice to have you here. I want to say the same for Senator Jesse Helms who's been a Senator for a long, long time, and likewise a former distinguished Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Our relationships go back many, many years. And Senator Helms it's great to have you here. I'd also like to mention Bob Dole. Senator Dole has been "Mr. Agriculture" in the midwest, a distinguished Senate career, a presidential candidate and a great friend for a long period of time.

Finally, I'd like to recognize the former secretaries of agriculture who are here. With us here this morning is Jack Knebel, Bob Bergland, Jack Block, Dick Lyng and Cliff Hardin. I want to make special note of Dick Lyng my predecessor, because I worked for Dick when I first came back to Washington, D.C. in 1970. And a special note to Cliff Hardin, because Cliff was my mentor—Mr. President, way back in my days as a faculty member at the University of Nebraska, when he was Chancellor it was Cliff who brought me here to D.C. in 1970 when he was Secretary of Agriculture.

Just one final closing comment, Mr. President. I first came to USDA almost 20 years ago to work in the South Bldg. In my first position as administrator of what was then the Consumer and Marketing Service. I had some of those same misgivings about the federal bureaucracy then that most people have when they come to Washington. And you've heard all those stories also, Mr. President. They come up when we discuss things like increases in salaries here in Washington, D.C., because a lot of folks think those are undeserved. I happen to think they are deserved

and I have learned that by experience. I was a bit wary and skeptical about whether, Mr. President, you can move the bureaucracy in Washington. When I came to take over an agency that had about 16,000 employees and I think there were about two of us in that 16,000 who were political appointees at the professional level. I thought, "oh my" how are a couple of people going to change a 16,000 persons bureaucracy. And I wasn't sure it could be done. But as Cliff Hardin and Dick Lyng will remember it could be done. Because we made some major changes in those years in a very successful way. What I discovered, Mr. President, was that folks here at USDA will listen, if you have something worthwhile to say. They listened to me back in 1970 and they've been listening to many who've given them leadership since then. I also discovered that they not only listen, Mr. President, but they'll respond. They are responsive to leadership. We have to remember that that's the way to achieve progress in this country.

So in closing, Mr. President, my commitment to you, my commitment to the employees from USDA who are here this morning, my commitment to the people out 'in farm country who are watching this program is a very simple one. I promise you we will put together a team at the top echelon at USDA that will be strong, competent, and energetic. And I promise you we will provide leadership. You may not always agree with the leadership that we provide. But we're going to lead. And I hope that you will be with us as we accomplish our goals and work with you, Mr. President, over the next few years.

Thank you for coming and God's speed.

#

**PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF
AGRICULTURE CLAYTON YEUTTER IN THE JEFFERSON
AUDITORIUM FOLLOWING HIS SWEARING-IN CEREMONY,
FEBRUARY 16.**

The first thing I wanted to say to you who are here in the (Jefferson) Auditorium is that I'm sorry you couldn't be over in the Administration building. That was a very nice ceremony over there as you could tell. I wish you could have been there, but there just wasn't the space and with all of the security problems and everything, it becomes difficult to handle.

I'm really pleased we did a program here for you. I hope it came across well so that you could see what was happening (via closed-circuit TV) over in the Patio. I want to pay special recognition to USDA award winners who are toward the front here. We wanted to make sure that as we invited folks to partake in this ceremony this morning, that those who were award winners, the high-level producers in this department, had an opportunity to participate. I believe in rewarding excellence in any way that we can. It's a little hard to reward you financially these days. I guess the Congress is not going to provide it, so we have got to provide some psychic rewards for people in government and we will try to do that over the next few years as best we possibly can. Certainly rewarding excellence reflects my basic and fundamental philosophy as many of you know from my years here before.

I feel like I'm just home in this department. My first stop here was just upstairs a couple of floors in room 3071, which was then the head office for the consumer and marketing service. I walked in there the other day for the first time in years, just taking a little nostalgia trip. Then I walked to my former offices in the other building. The first one was when I was assistant secretary for marketing—what was then called marketing and consumer services, which was sort of a combination of what's now food and consumer services and FSIS. And then the other one, which was then assistant secretary for international affairs and commodity programs, which is now under-secretary for international affairs and commodity programs. There's a bit of a nostalgia trip for all of those stops here in USDA and it's a privilege and pleasure to come back.

I even ran into a number of people who worked for me over here in the consumer and marketing service days. I stopped and tried out your

cafeteria in the South Building the other noon, and there were a couple people who worked for me in C&MS who came up to say hello and seeing them was really a delight. I will wander around here from time to time to see you all.

Now, I have a chance to introduce the rest of my crew, this is our daughter Kim, whom you saw, and her fiancée John Bottimore. I wish we could introduce Kim's three brothers to you also, but they did not come in for this performance today. John is an engineer by background, graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, who spent five years as a naval officer in one of our nuclear submarines. He came out of the Navy and got his MBA at Georgetown which is where the two of them met. He is now working for Honeywell. It's really nice to have both of them join in this morning.

I don't have very much time to spend with you, I'm sorry to say, because we need to go back and have a little receiving line in the other building and greet the distinguished guests. I've already said that we are going to try to assemble a first-class team at the top echelon of this department. I've been working hard trying to put together my team. I've interviewed a lot of outstanding people in the last 30 days. And I feel good about the quality-level, talent-level that we are going to be able to assemble here. If we can just get them cleared through the White House's Office of Personnel, we may eventually get them on board.

One of the questions I have asked everyone of these people is how hard they are prepared to work. Because if they come, they're going to work awful hard. Probably a lot harder than they have ever worked before. But that's life, that's the way it's going to be in this Administration.

I also want them to work smart. Working hard is one thing, working smart is another. We are going to try and find people who will work smart too. I want to think big picture as well. You can find plenty of people in this world who can think small. The trick is to find people who can think big. They are rare indeed, but we are going to try and find them. We are also going to try and find people who look ahead, anybody can look backwards. Hindsight is always 20/20. The question is whether you have people who can look ahead and effectively and accurately perceive what's likely to occur and then hopefully have some influence on what might transpire in the future.

And finally and most importantly—and this applies to your own personnel judgments as well—we have to try and find people who use good judgment. There's a lot of difference between being intelligent and

having good judgment. There are many intelligent people in the world; not so many of them have good judgment. One has to try and find the combination. That's the kind of team that we are going to attempt to assemble as your leadership group for the next few years.

You can watch as this unfolds in the next few weeks and we'll try to get them together to get ready to get to work.

Thanks so much for coming and I hope to see you in the future. I am sorry we can't mingle.

#

News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

USDA PROPOSES CHANGING DAIRY PRODUCT GRADING AND INSPECTION FEES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed increasing certain fees for its voluntary or industry-solicited grading and inspection services funded by the dairy industry.

Fees were last increased in June 1988, which was the first increase in 10 years, said J. Patrick Boyle, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. The proposal is prompted by higher operating costs and a decline in revenue caused by a major reduction in grading activities for government purchases of surplus dairy products. Under law, the dairy grading program, like other commodity grading programs, is user fee funded and must balance its fee income against its costs, Boyle said.

The proposed fee increases are as follows:

- from \$33 per hour to \$36 per hour for intermittent grading and inspecting, with travel and per diem costs continuing to be charged in addition to the hourly charge;

- from \$24 per hour to \$28 per hour for non-routine laboratory work, i.e., work not on a published schedule of fees, with a similar increase for laboratory tests for which published fees are charged at a per-test rate rather than an hourly rate;

- from \$24 per hour to \$32 per hour for “continuous resident” grading and inspection, i.e., for a grader-inspector assigned to a plant permanently.

USDA also has proposed to eliminate a special fee for “continuous non-resident” grading and inspection service, i.e., for the service of a grader-inspector assigned to a plant for a fixed period, usually on contracts such as those for USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. Considerations like travel costs, which must be factored into such a fee, are so variable that no set fee can be established for this service. Instead, USDA proposes using the non-resident rate plus travel costs in charging for this service, Boyle said.

If adopted, the proposals would ensure the dairy grading and inspection program is financially self-supporting as the law requires, Boyle said.

These proposals were published in the Feb. 14 Federal Register. Copies may be obtained from the Dairy Grading Section, Dairy Grading and Standardization Branch, Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20096-6456. Comments, to be received by March 16, should be sent to USDA, AMS, Dairy Division, Rm. 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

#

HORSE PROTECTION USDA SUBMITS FINAL RULE ON HORSE PROTECTION REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced changes to the Horse Protection Regulations which make permanent some restrictions on the use of pads and action devices on show horses, and amends the regulations regarding pad configuration, effective March 20.

The changes were developed in a series of interim rules published between April and October 1988. "Our final rule retains a previous change, effective Aug. 1, 1988, setting the height of a pad at no more than half the length of a horse's hoof," said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "The rule also removes a requirement that any artificial extension of the hoof length must follow the angle of the front of the hoof wall," he said. Pad height must be measured from the bottom of the tip of the toe at a 90-degree angle to the top surface of the shoe.

The rule also makes final a six-ounce weight limit on chains and rollers used on show horses, said Glosser.

APHIS' final decision requires that toe length on all horses subject to the regulations must exceed heel height by at least one-inch. "This heel/toe ratio is sufficient to preserve the natural position of a horse's hoof," Glosser said. The one-inch heel/toe ratio applies to all horses used in shows, exhibitions, sales or auctions."

Additionally, the final rule now prohibits any use of pads in violation of the regulations, even if used for corrective or medical purposes. Previously, the regulations exempted a hoof from certain requirements regarding pads as long as its opposite hoof met the requirements.

The final rule also clarifies the term yearling to mean any horse that is up to two years old. “Based on our investigations and the recommendations of about 2,500 commenters, we have developed a set of regulations which adequately enforce the Horse Protection Act,” Glosser said. “Our position on soring is clear. If we find sore horses, we will take action against the responsible party, regardless of the device used.”

The final rule also makes permanent several provisions which were established in last year’s interim rules:

- prohibition on the placement of objects or materials between pad and hoof, except certain approved packing materials;

- a requirement that all pads be made of leather or plastic or other similar soft pliable material;

- a restriction regarding the placement of certain weights on a horse’s foot.

Additionally, the rule makes permanent the removal of a 16-ounce weight limit on horseshoes, and the removal of a six-ounce limit on soft rubber and soft leather bell boots and quarter boots that are used as protective devices.

APHIS administers the Horse Protection Act, passed in 1970, to eliminate the practice of “soring.” Soring is the use of cruel methods, devices or chemicals on a horse’s legs or feet that cause a horse pain when walking. Soring is done primarily to alter a horse’s gait in the show ring.

For further information contact Dr. R. L. Crawford, Regulatory Enforcement and Animal Care, APHIS, USDA, Room 269, Federal Building, 6505

Janna Evans (301) 436-7251

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17, through midnight Thursday, Feb. 23.

Since the AWP is less than the 1987-crop and 1988-crop base quality loan rates of 52.25 and 51.80 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate for 1987-crop and 1988-crop upland cotton during this period is equal to the AWP adjusted for the specific quality and location.

Because the loan repayment rate for 1988-crop upland cotton in effect during this period is less than the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments will be made to eligible producers who agree to forgo loan eligibility on their 1988-crop upland cotton. The loan deficiency payment rate for cotton which the producer agrees not to pledge as loan collateral during this period will equal the difference between the loan rate and the loan repayment rate in effect for that period.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Based on data for the week ending Feb. 16, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price	62.12
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	11.99
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	2.00
Average U.S. location	0.42
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-14.41</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	47.71 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price	62.12
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price	<u>-56.90</u>
	5.22
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton	<u>-4.15</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	1.07 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Feb. 23.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

#

USDA PLANS FOR MAJOR GENOME MAPPING PROJECT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17—In a major research effort, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is planning a plant genome program to unlock the genetic mysteries of the plant world. Research goals will be to identify genes present in important food and forest crops and determine what the genes do and how they function. “A plant genome program is essential for the United States to maintain and strengthen its strong global position in agricultural efficiency and profitability,” Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter said today.

USDA’s Agricultural Research Service has been assigned responsibility for providing federal leadership in developing the genome mapping project. ARS will act as a focal point for a system of interrelated federal, state and university research.

While a variety of projects are now being conducted by federal, state, university and industry researchers to study individual parts of the genetic make up of some crops, there is currently no single major project to develop complete gene maps of the important food and forest crops.

Genome mapping develops a comprehensive picture of what genes are present in plants, their arrangement within the chromosomes, what traits they control and how they may do it. It includes identifying DNA sequences, gene functions, location of DNA markers that track gene sequences and developing gene maps, which assign genes to a particular chromosome. “Knowledge about the genomes of important food and forest species is essential,” said USDA’s Assistant Secretary for Science and Education Orville G. Bentley. “We need information about the location of genes that control or influence yield, time of maturation, nutritional content, and resistance to disease, insects and drought to develop and improve crops. “Possession of such crop plant gene dictionaries today is as fundamental to biology and agricultural sciences as is a working knowledge of anatomy or chemistry,” he said.

Genome maps also could shorten the time it takes to develop new varieties of crops with increased resistance to diseases and insects or to meet other demands for varieties to fill special environmental needs, Bentley said.

The selection of which crop and forest species will be mapped has not been made, according to Bentley. Corn, soybeans, cotton, tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, potatoes, barley, rice, wheat, forage grasses and alfalfa, and pine trees have all been mentioned. Initially, work will concentrate

on the most economically important crops. “The project is likely to be more complex than the human genome study recently begun because of the number of plant species involved,” Bentley said. Corn alone has about the same number of base pairs as human chromosomes—three billion.

Kim Kaplan (301) 344-3932

#

USDA PROPOSES FEE INCREASES FOR MEAT GRADING AND CERTIFICATION SERVICES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to raise the hourly fees charged for meat grading and certification services.

J. Patrick Boyle, administrator of USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, said the proposed changes would offset recently increased costs associated with employee salaries, travel and health benefits.

The proposed fee increases are as follows:

- from the current \$27.40 to \$28.80 for “base hours,” (40 hours per week) for “commitment applicants,” i.e., plants using graders full time;
- from the current \$29.80 to \$31.20 for base hours for “non-commitment applicants,” i.e., plants using graders intermittently or part-time;

- from \$35.40 to \$36.80 for “premium hours,” i.e., overtime on any day, and any work prior to 6 a.m. and after 6 p.m. weekdays;

- from \$54.80 to \$57.60 for holiday hours for any user.

USDA’s meat grading service identifies yields and quality of carcasses. Its meat certification service provides large-scale buyers reliable verification that their meat suppliers fulfill contract specifications.

Under law, these services are provided to users on a fee basis. The fees must approximate service costs. Use of these services is voluntary on the part of industry.

The proposed rules will appear in today’s Federal Register. Comments may be sent to the Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2638-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Further information may be obtained from Eugene M. Martin at the same address; telephone (202) 382-1113.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.97 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 9.29 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 9.23 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.98 cents per pound.

Minimum loan repayment rates for 1987 crop loans are the higher of the world price or 50 percent of the loan rate. For 1988 crop rice, the minimum repayment rates are the higher of the world price or 60 percent of the loan rate.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$6.16 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.82 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.55 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3:00 P.M. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Feb. 28 at 3:00 P.M. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-5954

#

U.S., JAMAICA AMEND P.L. 480 AGREEMENT

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, Feb. 21—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced that the United States and Jamaica have amended their sales agreement under U.S. Public Law 480, Title I, to include wood products and wheat or wheat flour in Jamaica's commodity allotment under the Food for Peace program.

Yeutter met today with Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley, Gov. Gen. Sir Florizel Glasspole and other Jamaican officials.

Today's amendment to the two countries' Title I agreement of Sept. 22, 1988, provides for the additional sales to Jamaica of approximately 37,000 cubic meters of wood products worth \$5 million and approximately 32,000 metric tons of wheat or wheat flour worth \$5

million. The action increases the total value of commodities provided to Jamaica under Title I of the Food for Peace program to \$40 million.

The supply period is fiscal 1989, and private U.S. traders will make commodity sales on a competitive basis. USDA will announce purchase authorizations as issued.

Other terms of the agreement remain the same.

Yeutter is the first member of President Bush's cabinet to meet with newly-elected Prime Minister Manley.

For information on purchasing, telephone (202) 447-5780.

Lynn K. Goldsbrough (202) 447-3448

#

FGIS PROPOSES TO OFFER SOYBEAN OIL, PROTEIN TESTING AS OFFICIAL CRITERIA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service is proposing to offer oil and protein testing of soybeans as official information on soybean quality.

Soybean oil and protein testing would be offered effective Sept. 4. While the proposal would not make oil and protein content grade criteria for soybeans, it would require reporting the information on official grain inspection certificates, starting Sept. 2, 1991. "Domestic producers have encouraged FGIS to provide these additional analyses to allow the market to establish premiums and discounts based on the processing quality of soybeans," said FGIS Administrator W. Kirk Miller. "Foreign buyers, too, have requested this important quality information."

The oil and protein analysis would be performed using near-infrared spectroscopy instrumentation. FGIS would certify the results to the nearest tenth of a percent.

FGIS requests comments on the constant moisture basis to use for reporting the oil and protein results. The agency has determined not to report the results on an "as is" moisture basis, Miller said, because oil and protein quantities of soybeans with different moisture contents cannot be compared accurately.

This proposal will be published in the Feb. 23 Federal Register.

Allen Atwood (202) 475-3367

#

USDA TO REVISE GRADE STANDARDS FOR FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is making minor revisions to clarify definitions and applications of the terms “injury” and “waste” used in standards for seven grades of low-quality, or “nondescript,” flue-cured tobacco.

The changes narrow the terms to specific percentages, thus aiding federal-state employees grading this kind of flue-cured tobacco, J. Patrick Boyle, administrator of USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, said. Currently, the terms can be used loosely, resulting in the chance of inconsistent grading. “The changes, effective March 27, will provide a more accurate picture of tobacco arriving at the marketplace,” Boyle said.

Notice of the changes will be published as a final rule in the Feb. 24 Federal Register.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

#

